

TAKING TERBUTALINE FOR PRETERM LABOR

Why am I on Terbutaline?

Terbutaline is a medication which has several uses. Your doctor will put you on Terbutaline to help stop the contractions (labor pains) of preterm labor.

Preterm Labor is when you start to have labor pains (regular contractions) three weeks, or earlier, before your due date.

How do I take my medication?

- You should take your medication exactly as your doctor has ordered.
- Before you take your medication, check your pulse for one full minute. The nurse will show you how to do this.
- You should take your pulse when you are resting and not after you have done an activity such as walking, chores, etc. Take your pulse when you are relaxed and in a sitting position.
- If your pulse rate is at 120 beats a minute or less, take your pill.
- If your pulse rate is greater than 120 beats a minute, wait 30 minutes and retake your pulse. You can retake your pulse two (2) times. If your pulse is still greater than 120 beats a minute, call Labor and Delivery at 885-6400.
- Normal side effects of your medicine may be palpitations or a rapid heart rate.

What if I feel contractions when I am taking my pulse?

- Stay in bed, and lie on your side (either side is okay).
- Start drinking fluids.
- If the contractions are four (4) or fewer per hour it is okay. If they are more than four, call Labor and Delivery at 885-6400.

When do I call the Labor & Delivery Department?

- If there are more than four (4) contractions in the hour and they do not disappear with bed-rest or when you have started drinking at least 3-4 8 oz. glasses of liquid.
- If you start bleeding from your vagina and it is bright red like a period.
- If you have a sudden gush of fluid from your vagina.
- If you become short of breath or start to have chest pain.

If you have any questions or concerns about taking Terbutaline or Terbutaline therapy, call our Labor & Delivery Department at 885-6400.

**For general information about Terbutaline or Terbutaline therapy, call the advice line at:
Valley Connection 1-888-334-1000**

I understand the above instructions _____

For appointments or questions, call Valley Connection
at 1-888-334-1000. In an emergency, call 911.